



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

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Voting Members

*Tara Brock, Vice Chair
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*Susan Chambers, Chair
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(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)*

*Nick Edwards
(Ports, Marine Transportation or
Navigation)*

*Jamie Fereday
(Coastal Public Representative)*

*Margaret Corvi
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)*

*Fran Recht
(Coastal City Elected Official)*

*Joe Liebezeit
(Statewide Conservation Organization)*

*Richard Heap, Jr.
(South Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)*

*Vacant
(North Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)*

*Vacant
(South Coastal County Commissioner)*

*Amelia O'Connor
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)*

*Vacant
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*Mark Kujala
Commissioner, Tillamook County
(North Coastal County Commissioner)*

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*Jonathan Allan
Department of Geology
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*Scott Groth
Department of Fish and Wildlife*

*Alexis Taylor
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*Ray Monroe
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*Chandra Ferrari
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Governor's Office*

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Department of Environmental Quality*

*Lisa Phipps
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*Lisa Sumption
Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation*

*Karina Nielsen
Director, Oregon Sea Grant*

June 19, 2025

Governor Tina Kotek
160 State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Funding of Ocean and Coastal Programs and Marine Reserves

Dear Governor Kotek,

As relayed in our November 11, 2023, letter and discussed at our December 11, 2024, meeting, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council unanimously supports full and complete funding for ocean and coastal management programs. Specifically, the Council expresses concern over proposals to cut the marine reserves program and the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council, the need for additional funding to support offshore wind and sustained funding to support the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy implementation, and the need for ongoing funding and support for tribal engagement and co-management of marine resources.

The Council has repeatedly supported and requested additional funding for ocean and coastal programs. This support was reinforced during Council meetings and transmitted to your office over the past several years. Given the strong support from your ocean advisory body and a diverse group of interested and affected parties, the Council remains concerned about the state of marine program funding into the future.

The Council requests any consideration of future budget cuts to the marine programs affecting Oregon's Territorial Sea in the state agency or Governor recommended budgets be presented to the Council before incorporation into final proposals. Properly funding the staff and resources necessary to implement policies that the Council and their workgroups have volunteered countless hours developing is especially poignant at this juncture. With federal funding in jeopardy, it is unclear how the state intends to fill funding gaps and ensure coastal programs can carry out their mandates. We request an update and report at our next meeting (scheduled for October 29, 2025) on the state's plans to fill funding gaps and ensure critical services and programs are maintained.

The Council strongly recommends the administration and state agencies consult with tribal governments early and often when developing ocean policies for the state to ensure the perspectives of tribal nations are well-represented. The coastal tribal sovereigns in Oregon have been the stewards of ocean and coastal places since time immemorial; their knowledge, expertise, connection, rights, and roles in stewardship recognized in recent co-management agreements between the tribes and the state.

Members of the public, agency staff, tribal members, and Council representatives have spent countless hours discussing, advising on, and refining the policies and processes that guide uses of Oregon's Territorial Sea. We reiterate the importance of fully funding Oregon's marine reserve program, the implementation of Territorial Sea Plan Part Three:



Rocky Habitat Management Strategy through Site Management Plans, the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council, and the development of an Offshore Wind Roadmap including necessary updates and amendments to our state's enforceable policies. HB 3587 – the Rocky Habitat Stewardship bill – is the kind of legislation that would help move forward the TSP Part Three implementation.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations. We remain committed to this work to ensure the state retains the uniqueness of our ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of all Oregonians and look forward to hearing from your office soon.

Sincerely,



Susan Chambers
Chair



Tara Brock
Vice-Chair

Cc:

Governor's Natural Resources Office –
Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, Geoff Huntington
Natural Resources Advisor, Chandra Ferrari
Department of Land Conservation and Development –
Director, Brenda Bateman
Department of Parks and Recreation –
Director, Lisa Sumption
Department of Environmental Quality –
Director, Leah Feldon
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